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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. The Kosmet is the area in Yugoslavia where ethnic resentments are most overtly expressed. Personal clashes and physical violence are daily occurrences among the Serbs, Montenegrins and Shqiptars (persons of Albanian origin). The traditional hatred among the mixed population is expressed by fights which often start over economic matters. For example, Srbokoop, like several other Belgrade commercial enterprises, has a branch office in Pristina. The employees and workers in this branch office of Srbokoop are Shqiptars. At the end of February 1955, Srbokoop in Pristina was authorized by another Belgrade enterprise to take some material from the latter's stockpile in Pristina. Although the matter was properly coordinated between the enterprises concerned and their respective branch offices in Pristina, the Srbokoop workers, when they came to pick up the material, were attacked with clubs, stones, and picks by Serb workers from the other enterprise. Several persons were wounded and hospitalized. The militia later transported the material for Srbokoop.

2. Government efforts to alleviate the problem in this area have thus far been ineffective. This is attributed to the poor selection of officials who cannot lift themselves above their own chauvinistic feelings. Thus, if a Serb or Montenegrin requests protection from an official who happens to be of Albanian extraction, no action will be taken. The same is true in reverse.

3. An engineer, a specialist in the textile and hemp industry, was discharged from his job as a part time advisor of the Provincial Government of the Vojvodina when it was learned that he had made the blue prints and had technically supervised the construction of a hemp spinning mill in Leskovac, Serbia.

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STATE	EV	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC					

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4. The Zagreb newspaper Republika in December 1954 published a part of Miroslav Krleza diary wherein Krleza was writing of the reminiscenses of a high ranking Austro-Hungarian officer at the end of World War I. The officer wrote disparagingly of the Serbian Army and the Serbian people. The publishing of the diary provoked very strong reaction and resentment on the part of the Serbs against the Croats but, since the manifestation of ethnic resentment is forbidden in Yugoslavia, there was no possibility of reacting through the press.

5. The Serbian publicist Antonije Todorovic wrote and signed an open letter to Krleza blaming him for publishing this part of the diary and praised the gallant fighting of the Serbian Army in World War I. Todorovic, in addition, reproached Krleza for using his prestige in the Federation of Communists of Yugoslavia (FCY), to attack the Serbian people. Thousands of copies of this letter were circulated among the Serbian population. Todorovic was arrested in February 1955 on the charge of provoking resentment between Serbs and Croats and remained in prison until the beginning of May when he was released without any trial.

6. During the past year antagonism among the various nationality groups in Yugoslavia has become more severe. The following are cited as examples: Croats will not attend a recital of a Serbian singer or musician; a Serb is treated by the Croats in restaurants and hotels as an undesirable guest and vice versa; if a Serb in Zagreb or a Croat in Belgrade makes a justifiable complaint in a hotel, shop, streetcar, etc., he is called all kinds of names; Serbian soccer teams have been "greeted" several times in Zagreb with stones, lemonade bottles and unfriendly shouts. The Government has taken energetic action to check the more overt manifestations of hatred, and at present they seldom occur.

7. Nothing has changed in the feelings of the people, however, and the fact that ethnic antagonism is currently manifested in the attitude of representatives of the government and government-run enterprises toward business firms and persons belonging to other ethnic groups makes the problem more severe. Lawyers in Belgrade, for example, consider a case lost if they have to try a claim of a Serbian firm in a court in the Peoples' Republics of Croatia, Macedonia or Bosnia-Hercegovina. Applications of firms and private persons requesting certificates and official statements from the governmental offices of other Republics are very seldom answered in due time.

8. There is no evidence available to indicate that animosities among the ethnic groups vary by economic, social or age groups.

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